

Message Text

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TAGS: TSPA, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN'S LONG-RANGE SPACE PROGRAM

REF: TOKYO 11231

1. AN AD HOC COMMITTEE OF THE JAPANESE SPACE ACTIVITIES COMMISSION (SAC) CHAIRED BY DR. SHIGEFUMI SAITO FILED A REPORT WITHSAC JULY 20 EXPLORING WIDE-RANGE POSSIBILITIES FOR JAPANESE SPACE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES DURING LAST QUARTER OF THIS CENTRY.

2. THE 250-PAGE REPORT WILL BE USED BY SAC IN FORMULATING A 15-YEAR SPACE DEVELOPMENT POLICY OUTLINE AS WELL AS INTERMEDIATE WORKING PROGRAM COVERING PERIOD OF THREE TO FIVE YEARS. IT IS A PRODUCT OF 2.5-YEAR STUDY PERFORMED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WITH COOPERATIONOF 30 TOP-LEVEL SPACE SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS IN JAPAN.

3. TITLED QTE LONG-RANGE VISION ON JAPAN'S SPACE DEVELOPMENT UNQTE, REPORT CALLS AMONG OTHER THINGS UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR JAPANESE PARTICIPATION IN U.S. SPACE SHUTTLE PROJECT WHILE PURSUING THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT COURSE. PARTICIPATION IN SPACE SHUTTLE WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO INSTALLING SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT (SUCH AS SEPAC) ON BOARD SHUTTLE ORBITER, BUT ACTUAL CHARTERING OF SHUTTLE AND EVEN MANNING SHUTTLE WITH JAPANESE SCIENTISTS

IS UNDER CONSIDERATION. EVENTUALLY JAPANESE SPACE ACTIVITIES WOULD INCLUDE MANNED SPACE FLIGHT PROGRAM, WITH DEVELOPMENT OF SPACECRAFT AND LAUNCH VEHICLE UNDERTAKEN ON ITS OWN, TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE AGE OF SPACE STATIONS.

4. SPECIFICALLY, REPORT PROPOSES JAPAN CHARTER SHUTTLE IN 1982 TO CONDUCT USEFUL SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS AND PUT JAPANESE SCIENTISTS ABOARD SHUTTLE ORBITER IN 1983. PLANS BEYOND THAT CALL FOR STARTING WORK FOR DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT OF MANNED SPACESHIP AND LAUNCH VEHICLE-- BEGINNING WITH TRIAL MANUFACTURE OF 5-TON UNMANNED SPACESHIP AND PUTTING IT ON BOARD SHUTTLE AROUND 1985 TO TEST OCEAN SURFACE RECOVERY. SUBSEQUENTLY, 10 TO 15 TON MANNED SPACESHIP FOR CREW OF UP TO THREE WILL BE DEVELOPED AND LAUNCHED INTO LOW ORBIT AROUND 1990 USING A CLUSTER OF LIQUID-HYDROGEN FUELED ROCKETS CALLED H-1 (WITH DIAMETER OF THREE METERS) AND H-2 (WITH DIAMETER OF FIVE METERS.)

5. SPACE DEVELOPMENT CONTEMPLATED FOR JAPAN TO UNDERTAKE IN NEXT 25 YEARS COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES. JAPANESE SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ARE VIEWED AS USING SATELLITES AND SPACECRAFT AS OBSERVATORIES FOR SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION OF SPACE, AS LIGHTHOUSES IN SPACE FOR SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT, AS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMUNICATION TOWERS IN SPACDBN AND AS BASE FOR SUPPORTING GROUND OPERATIONS. SPACECRAFT WILL ALSO BE USED AS LABORATORIES FOR PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENT, AS MATERIALS PROCESSING PLANTS, AS BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENT STATIONS, AND AS SPACE COLONIES. REPORT ALSO ENVISAGES JAPANESE EXPLORATION OF MOON, PLANETS, AND COMETS.

5. COMMENT: ISSUANCE OF REPORT JUST BEFORE START OF BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS FOR FISCAL 1978 APPEARS AIMED AT BACKING UP STA SPACE OFFICIALS IN THEIR COMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH MOF. LACK OF REFERENCE IN REPORT TO COST OF DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER, MAY PROVE FATAL BECAUSE PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES ECONOMY-MINDED MOF OFFICIALS ARE HARDLY EXPECTED TO ACCEPT IDEAS WHICH MAY SOUND VISIONARY TO THEM, HOWEVER HARD STA OFFICIALS MAY TRY TO STRESS BENEFITS ACCRUING FROM EXPANDED SPACE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. CONSIDERING GENERAL INABILITY OF GOJ TECHNICAL AGENCIES TO ELICIT FUNDS FOR LARGE-SCALE R&D PROJECTS, WE ARE FORCED TO GIVE ALTERNATIVE ITERIM TITLE TO REPORT: "PIE IN THE SKY". END COMMENT.

7. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED REPORT IN JAPANESE AND WILL
FORWRD IT ON REQUEST. ONLY TABLE OF CONTENTS HAS
BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED
BY STA THAT SHORTER ENGLISH-LANGUAGE VERSION OF REPORT
WILL BE AVAILABLE BY END OF YEAR.
MANSFIELD

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